

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 40 and 41 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 19, 20, 21, 29, 33 and 39 as follows.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the juice stream comprises chloroplasts.
- 3-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the fiber fraction is separated from the juice stream comprising one of screening, centrifugation, processing by hydro(cyclone), centriscreening, decanting, sedimentation, or combinations thereof.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the vegetable material originates from a cultivated crop.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the cultivated crop belongs to the family of grasses.

8-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:
- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material by means of a refiner to dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from relatively firm tissues and
 - b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, ~~such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles,~~ and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, ~~such as parenchyma and cytosol.~~
20. (Currently Amended) A fiber fraction obtained by a method for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:
- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material by means of a refiner to dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from relatively firm tissues and
 - b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, ~~such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles,~~ and

- ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, ~~such as parenchyma and cytosol.~~
21. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable product comprising a fiber fraction obtained by a method for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:
- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material by means of a refiner to dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from relatively firm tissues and
 - b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, ~~such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles,~~ and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, ~~such as parenchyma and cytosol.~~
22. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is paper.
23. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is cardboard.
24. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is fiberboard.

25. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is used in the preparation of a moisture absorbing material.
26. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is used in the preparation of growth media.
27. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is a soil improver.
28. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable product according to claim 21, wherein said product is fuel to produce energy.
29. (Currently Amended) A juice stream obtained by a method for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:
- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material by means of a refiner to dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from relatively firm tissues and
 - b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into

- i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, ~~such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles,~~ and
- ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, ~~such as parenchyma and cytosol.~~

30. (Previously Presented) A juice stream according to claim 29, which contains more than 55% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

31. (Previously Presented) A juice stream according to claim 30, which contains preferably more than 75% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

32. (Previously Presented) A juice stream according to claim 31, which contains preferably more than 90% of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

33. (Currently Amended) A protein enriched product comprising a juice stream obtained by a method for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material by means of a refiner to dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from relatively firm tissues and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into

- i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, ~~such as epidermis, sclerenchyma, and vascular bundles,~~ and
- ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues, ~~such as parenchyma and cytosol.~~

- 34. (Previously Presented) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, wherein said product is food.
- 35. (Previously Presented) A protein enriched product according to claim 34, wherein said food is for human nourishment.
- 36. (Previously Presented) A protein enriched product according to claim 34, wherein said food is for use in livestock feeding.
- 37. (Previously Presented) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, wherein said product is a substrate for fermentation.
- 38. (Previously Presented) A protein enriched product according to claim 33, which results from recovering or purifying a substance contained in said juice stream.
- 39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for separating virtually completely cytosolic and parenchyma components from relatively firm tissues (vascular bundles, sclerenchyma, epidermis) of vegetable material having at least leaf and/or stem parts comprising:

- a) a ~~fiberizer~~ refiner which ~~dissociates relatively firm tissues from the relatively soft tissues of said vegetable material~~ dissociate virtually completely all cytosolic and parenchyma materials from said relatively firm tissues, and
- b) a separator which separates the fiber fraction from the juice stream.

40-41. Cancelled